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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION IX

3 IN THE MATTER OF: Order No. 93-06 A&W Smelters and Refiners, Inc. 4 ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 5 12040 E. Florence Avenue PURSUANT TO SECTION 106 Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670 6 OF THE COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE. 7 Respondents: COMPENSATION, AND LIABILITY ACT OF 1980 8 A&W Smelters and Refiners as amended, 42 U.S.C. John A. Alexander Section 9606(a) 10 Daryl Westerfeld

PREAMBLE

- This Administrative Order ("Order") is issued on this date to the Respondent, pursuant to the authority vested in the President of the United States by Section 106(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, 42 U.S.C. Section 9606(a), as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, Pub. L. 99-499 ("CERCLA"), delegated to the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("U.S. EPA") by Executive Order No. 12580, January 23, 1987, 52 Federal Register 2923, further delegated to the EPA Regional Administrators by U.S. EPA Delegation Nos. 14-14-A and 14-14-B, and further redelegated to the Director, Hazardous Waste Management Division by Region IX Delegations 1290.41 and 1290.42.
- The State of California been notified of the issuance of this Order as required by Section 106(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. Section 9606(a).

3. This Order requires the Respondent to undertake and complete removal of approximately 543 drums of solid materials, containing elevated concentrations of lead, to abate an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health or welfare or the environment that may be presented by the actual or threatened release of a hazardous substance.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Based on available information, including the Administrative Record in this matter, U.S. EPA hereby finds:

4. Location of Drums

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The approximately 543 drums in question are currently in temporary storage at the Appropriate Technology II (App Tech) facility located on 1700 Maxwell Road, Chula Vista, California 91911.

5. Respondents

A&W Smelters and Refiners 12040 E. Florence Ave. Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670 PH# (310) 944-6215 Fax# (301) 944-7198

John A. Alexander 12040 E. Florence Ave. Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670 PH# (310) 944-6215 Fax# (310) 944-7198

Daryl Westerfeld (President) 2601 Aland Avenue Lancaster, CA 93534 PH# (805) 943-6076 PH# (805) 824-2656 Fax#(805) 944-7198

6. Incident / Release Characteristics

During the month of December 1992, approximately 543 drums of lead contaminated materials were transported by L&Z Trucking of San Ysidro, California, aboard seven trucks to the United States/Mexican border from the A&W Smelters and Refiners facility located outside of Mohave, California (SE1/4, Section 32, T11N, R12W, SBM, in Kern County, California). L&Z Trucking was not a certified hazardous waste or hazardous substance approved transporter by the California Highway Patrol. Three out of the seven loads entered Mexico and were seized by the Mexican Customs Service. Four out of the seven loads were impounded by the U.S. Customs Service and then sent to the L&Z trucking storage yard located in San Ysidro, California.

On January 11, 1993, the Environmental Protection Agency formally notified A&W Smelters and Refiners through their legal counsel, Mr. Matthew Nasuti, that the Mexican Customs Service was returning the impounded trucks to the United States on January 14, 1993. EPA proposed to A&W Smelter and Refiners to allow L&Z Trucking to transport all seven trucks back to the Mohave facility. To allow this action to occur, EPA requested the State of California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal-EPA) and the California Highway Patrol to grant a Hazardous Waste Facility Permit variance to L&Z. In addition, EPA and the Cal-EPA granted a variance to allow the Mohave facility to store hazardous waste

and substance pursuant to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, as amended (RCRA).

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In the evening of January 13, 1993, A&W Smelter and Refining informed EPA through their legal counsel that arrangements with L&Z Trucking could not be arranged. EPA informed A&W Smelter and Refining that because they could not arrange appropriate transportation, EPA would consider the trucks and their contents abandoned. Therefore, EPA would cause the three trucks returning from Mexico and the four staged trucks at L&Z to be transported temporarily to Appropriate Technologies II, Chula Vista, California, an EPA approved Storage Facility. On January 14, 1993, at approximately 0900 hrs, the three Mexican impounded trucks entered the United States Customs facility located at San Ysidro, California. EPA On-Scene-Coordinator, Robert Bornstein, with approval from EPA Region IX, contracted Disposal Control Service of Upland, California to perform the transportation of all of the impounded trucks to Appropriate Technologies. California Highway Patrol granted variances to EPA to allow the L&Z Trailers to travel to the facility. All of the trucks were properly manifested pursuant to RCRA and Department of Transportation regulations governing the transportation of hazardous waste.

7. Quantities and Types of Substance Present
Random, representative samples from the approximately 543
drums were collected by San Diego County officials at the U.S.

Customs facility and submitted to Southern California Laboratory, an EPA approved laboratory. Laboratory results revealed that the contents of the drums contain elevated concentrations of lead up to 2 % (20,000 parts per million). The material exhibited the characteristic of Toxicity through the Total Concentrate Leachate Procedure (TCLP) analysis of greater that 5.0 milligrams per liter (> 5.0 mg/l) pursuant to CFR 261.24 for lead (D008). In addition, elevated concentrations of zinc and copper were detected as well as detectable concentrations of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

8. Threats to Public Health and Welfare

Lead and lead compounds are defined as hazardous substances pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response,

Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (CERCLA), 40

CFR Section 302.4. Samples taken from the drums tested greater than 20,000 ppm for lead. At these concentrations, lead is universally considered a risk to human health, especially children.

Should these drums be abandoned and their contents released, soil contamination would occur. Soil Clean-up Action Levels are commonly in the 500-600 ppm range. The elevated lead concentrations found in the contents of these drums pose a significant health hazard to the local population.

The United States Department of Health and Human Services,
Public Health Service, National Institute for Occupational Safety

and Health classifies lead as a potential human carcinogen. The ingestion of lead by humans is known to cause damage to the kidneys and central nervous system and cause anemia. High levels of lead within the blood stream of children can also cause severe learning disabilities and health disorders.

9. Threats to the Environment

The abandonment of these drums and any subsequent release of their hazardous contents makes exposure to wildlife and the environment likely. Weather-spread lead contamination can potentially contaminate the local ecosystem and aquifers.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings, U.S. EPA has concluded that:

- 10. A&W Smelters and Refiners is a "person" as defined by Section 101(21) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. Section 9601(21).
- 11. John A. Alexander is a "person" as defined by Section 101(21) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. Section 9601(21).
- 12. Daryl Westerfeld is a "person" as defined by Section 101(21) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. Section 9601(21).
- 13. John A. Alexander is a person who by contract, agreement, or otherwise arranged for disposal or treatment, or arranged with a transporter for transport for disposal or treatment, of hazardous substances owned or possessed by such person, by any other party or entity, at any facility or

incineration vessel owned or operated by an other party or entity and containing such hazardous substances.

- 14. A&W is a person who by contract, agreement, or otherwise arranged for disposal or treatment, or arranged with a transporter for transport for disposal or treatment, of hazardous substances owned or possessed by such person, by any other party or entity, at any facility or incineration vessel owned or operated by an other party or entity and containing such hazardous substances.
- 15. Daryl Westerfeld A&W is a person who by contract, agreement, or otherwise arranged for disposal or treatment, or arranged with a transporter for transport for disposal or treatment, of hazardous substances owned or possessed by such person, by any other party or entity, at any facility or incineration vessel owned or operated by an other party or entity and containing such hazardous substances.
- 16. The Respondents are therefore liable persons under Section 107(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. Section 9607.
- 17. Lead is a "hazardous substances" as defined by Section 101(14) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. Section 9601(14).
- 18. The approximately 543 drums in question are hazardous substances as defined by Section 101(14) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. Section 9601(14).
- 19. The abandonment of the approximately 543 drums in question constitutes an actual or threatened "release" as that

term is defined in Section 101(22) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. Section 9601(22).

DETERMINATIONS

Based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Director, Hazardous Waste Management Division, EPA Region IX, has made the following determinations:

- 20. The actual or threatened release of hazardous substances from the Facility may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health or welfare or the environment.
- 21. The actions required by this Order, if properly performed, are consistent with the National Contingency Plan ("NCP"), 40 CFR Part 300 and CERCLA; and are appropriate to protect the public health or welfare or the environment.
- 22. The material constitutes a threat to public health or welfare or the environment based upon consideration of the factors set forth in the NCP at 40 CFR section 300.415(b). These factors include, but are not limited to, the following:
- a. actual or potential exposure to hazardous substances by nearby populations, animals, or food chain;
 The abandonment of the drums may lead to a release of lead, a hazardous substance that may adversely impact the local community.

- b. hazardous substances in drums, barrels, tanks, or other
 bulk storage containers, that may pose a threat of release;
 This factor is present due to the abandonment of approximately
 drums (3 trailers at the U.S Customs facility and 4 at the
 L&Z Truck facility
 - c. weather conditions that may cause hazardous substances to migrate or be released;

In the event of a release, due to abandonment, wind and rain may cause additional migration of lead.

ORDER

Based upon the foregoing Findings, Conclusions, and Determinations, and pursuant to Section 106(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. Section 9606(a), it is hereby Ordered that the Respondent undertakes the following actions under the direction of EPA's On-Scene Coordinator.

23. By 5:00 p.m., Saturday, January 16, 1993, the Respondent shall contact Robert Bornstein through the EPA Emergency Spill Line at (415) 744-2000. The Respondent shall request to speak to the EPA Duty Officer who will put Respondent in touch with Mr. Bornstein. The Respondent shall then notify EPA of their intentions to assume responsibility for the storage of the approximately 543 drums staged at Appropriate Technologies II, Chula Vista, California. The Respondents shall assume all

financial responsibilities for the storage of the drums commencing starting on January 14, 1993.

- 24. Within thirty (30) days upon receipt of this Order, the respondents shall arrange for and conduct the transportation and disposal of the approximately 543 drums staged at Appropriate Technologies II, Chula Vista, California. The Respondents shall utilize Department of Transportation and State of California approved hazardous waste transporters. Disposal shall be arranged with an EPA-approved and permitted facility that is in compliance with EPA Off-Site Policy (OSWER Directive 9834.11, November 13, 1987) in accordance with CERCLA Section 121(d)(3), 42 U.S.C. §9621(d)(3). EPA must provide the Respondents written approval and acceptance to the Respondents prior to any transportation or disposal of the drums.
- 25. All work must be in compliance with EPA's Standard Operating Safety Guide, dated November, 1984, and updated July, 1988, and with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration ("OSHA") regulations applicable to Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response, 29 CFR Part 120.
- 26. All work shall be performed by qualified contractor to undertake and complete the requirements of this Order. The Respondents shall notify U.S. EPA of the name of such contractor within two (2) days of the effective date of this Order. U.S. EPA retains the right to disapprove of any, or all, of the contractors and/or subcontractors retained by the Respondent. In

the event U.S. EPA disapproves of a selected contractor, the Respondent shall retain a different contractor to perform the work, and such selection shall be made within two (2) business days following U.S. EPA's disapproval.

- 27. The Respondent shall provide EPA with written weekly summary reports. These reports should contain a summary of the previous week's activities and planned up-coming events. The weekly reports shall also contain any hazardous waste manifests generated during site activities.
- 28. EPA shall be informed at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to any on-Site work.
- 29. All sampling and analysis shall be consistent with the "Quality Assurance/Quality Control Guidance for Removal Activities": "Sampling QA/QC Plan and Data Validation Procedures," EPA OSWER Directive 9360.4-01, dated April, 1990.
- Respondent shall designate a Project Coordinator. To the greatest extent possible, the Project Coordinator shall be present on site or readily available during site work. The U.S. EPA has designated Robert E. Bornstein, as its On-Scene Coordinator. The On-Scene Coordinator and the Project Coordinator shall be responsible for overseeing the implementation of this Order. To the maximum extent possible, communication between the Respondent and the U.S. EPA, and all documents, reports, and approvals, and all other correspondence

concerning the activities relevant to this Order, shall be directed through the On-Scene Coordinator and the Project Coordinator.

- 31. The U.S. EPA and the Respondent shall each have the right to change their respective designated On-Scene Coordinator or Project Coordinator. U.S. EPA shall notify the Respondent, and Respondent shall notify U.S. EPA, as early as possible before such a change is made, but in no case less then 24 hours before such a change. Notification may initially be verbal, but shall promptly be reduced to writing.
- 32. The U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator shall have the authority vested in an On-Scene Coordinator by the NCP, 40 CFR Part 300, as amended, including the authority to halt, conduct, or direct any work required by this Order, or to direct any other response action undertaken by U.S. EPA or the Respondent at the facility.
- 33. No extensions to the above time frames shall be granted without sufficient cause. All extensions must be requested, in writing, and shall not be deemed accepted unless approved, in writing, by U.S. EPA.
- 34. All instructions by the U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator or his designated alternate shall be binding upon the Respondent as long as those instructions are not clearly inconsistent with the National Contingency Plan.

35. To the extent that the Facility or other areas where work under this Order is to be performed is owned by, or in possession of, someone other than the Respondent, the Respondent shall obtain all necessary access agreements. In the event that after using their best efforts Respondent is unable to obtain such agreements, Respondent shall immediately notify U.S. EPA.

- 36. The Respondent shall provide access to the Facility to U.S. EPA employees, contractors, agents, and consultants at reasonable times, and shall permit such persons to be present and move freely in the area in order to conduct inspections, including taking photographs and videotapes of the Facility, to do cleanup/stabilization work, to take samples to monitor the work under this Order, and to conduct other activities which the U.S. EPA determines to be necessary.
- 37. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to prevent U.S. EPA from seeking legal or equitable relief to enforce the terms of this Order, or from taking other legal or equitable action as it deems appropriate and necessary, or from requiring the Respondent in the future to perform additional activities pursuant to CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. Section 9601, et seq., or any other applicable law.
- 38. The provisions of this Order and the directions of the On-Scene Coordinator shall be binding on the employees, agents, successors, and assigns of the Respondent.

- 39. Except where this Order specifically provides otherwise, its obligations shall be effective one (1) calendar days following issuance unless a conference is requested as provided herein. If a conference is requested, this Order shall be effective on one (1) calendar day following the day of the conference unless modified in writing by U.S. EPA.
- 40. Within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of this Order, the Respondent shall provide notice, verbally or in writing, to U.S. EPA stating their intention to comply with the terms of this Order. Verbal notification must be followed in writing within three (3) calendar days. In the event the Respondent fails to provide such notice, the Respondent shall be deemed not to have complied with the terms of this Order.
- 41. The Respondent shall retain copies of all records and files relating to hazardous substances found on the site for six years following completion of the activities required by this Order and shall make them available to the U.S. EPA prior to the termination of the removal activities under this Order.
- 42. The Respondent shall submit a final report summarizing the actions taken to comply with this Order. The report shall contain, at a minimum: identification of the facility, a description of the locations and types of hazardous substances encountered at the facility upon the initiation of work performed under this Order, a chronology and description of the actions performed (including both the organization and

implementation of response activities), a listing of the resources committed to perform the work under this Order (including financial, personnel, mechanical, and technological resources), identification of all items that affected the actions performed under the Order and discussion of how all problems were resolved, a listing of quantities and types of materials removed from the facility, a discussion of removal and disposal options considered for any such materials, a listing of the ultimate destination of those materials, and a presentation of the analytical results of all sampling and analyses performed and accompanying appendices containing all relevant paperwork accrued during the action (e.g., manifests, invoices, bills, contracts,

13 permits). The final report shall also include an affidavit from 14 a person who supervised or directed the preparation of that 15 The affidavit shall certify under penalty of law that 16 based on personal knowledge and appropriate inquiries of all 17 other persons involved in preparation of the report, the information submitted is true, accurate, and complete to the best 18 of the affiant's knowledge and belief. The report shall be 19 submitted within 30 days of completion of the work required by 20 21 the U.S. EPA.

43. All notices, reports, and requests for extensions submitted under terms of this Order shall be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, and addressed to the following:

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1 2 3 4 5	one copy Robert E. Bo On Scene Coo 75 Hawthorne San Francisc (415) 744-22	rdinator Street o, CA 94105
7 8 9 10		o, CA 94105
12 13 14 15 16		gional Counsel -5) Office of Regional Counsel Street o, CA 94105
18	44. If any provision o	f this Order is deemed invalid

44. If any provision of this Order is deemed invalid or unenforceable, the balance of this Order shall remain in full force and effect.

ACCESS TO ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

45. The Administrative Record supporting the selection of the response action for this site will be available for review on normal business days between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. in the Office of Regional Counsel, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, 75 Hawthorne Street, 16th Floor, San Francisco, California. Please contact John Rothman, Assistant Regional Counsel, at (415) 744-1353 to review the Administrative Record.

Respondent may within twenty-four (24) hours after issuance of this Order, request a conference with the U.S. EPA. Any such conference shall be held within three (3) calendar days from the date of request unless extended by mutual agreement of the parties. At any conference held pursuant to the request, the Respondent may appear in person, or be represented by an attorney or other representative. If the Respondent desires such a conference, the Respondent shall contact John Rothman, Assistant Regional Counsel, at (415) 744-1353.

- 47. If such a conference is held, the Respondent may present any evidence, arguments or comment regarding this Order, its applicability, any factual determinations upon which the actions Order is based, the appropriateness of any action which the Respondent is ordered to take, or any other relevant and material issue. Any such evidence, arguments or comments should be reduced to writing and submitted to U.S. EPA within 10 calendar days following the conference. If no conference is requested, any such evidence, arguments or comments must be submitted in writing within three (3) calendar days following the issuance of this Order. Any such writing should be directed to John Rothman, Assistant Regional Counsel, at the address cited above.
- 48. The Respondent is hereby placed on notice that U.S. EPA will take any action which may be necessary in the

opinion of U.S. EPA for the protection of public health and welfare and the environment, and Respondent may be liable under Section 107(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. Section 9607(a), for the costs of those government actions.

PENALTIES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE

49. The Respondent is advised pursuant to Section 106(b) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. Section 9606(b), that willful violation or subsequent failure or refusal to comply with this Order, or any portion thereof, may subject the Respondent to a civil penalty of up to \$25,000 per day for each day in which such violation occurs, or such failure to comply continues. Failure to comply with this Order, or any portion thereof, without sufficient cause may also subject the Respondent to liability for punitive damages in an amount three times the amount of any cost incurred by the government as a result of the failure of the Respondent to take proper action, pursuant to Section 107(c)(3) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. Section 9607(c)(3).

THIS ORDER IS ISSUED on this 15th day of January, 1993.

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

By:

 Jeff/Zelikson, Director

Hazardous Waste Management Division

United States Environmental

Protection Agency Region IX

Contacts:

Robert E. Bornstein
On Scene Coordinator
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San Francisco, CA 94105

William J. Weis III
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John Rothman Assistant Regional Counsel (RC-3-2) Office of Regional Counsel United States Environmental Protection Agency 75 Hawthorne Street San Francisco, CA 94105

Diane C. Bodine
Off-Site Policy Coordinator (H-4-3)
United States Environmental Protection Agency
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

ATTACHMENT A

INDEX TO ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

1) Southern California Laboratory Report: 12-22-92 for County of San Diego Samples Collected 11-19-92 (Enforcement Confidential)

Guidance Documents by Reference

- 2) Guidance Document: Superfund Removal Procedures #3, OSWER #9360.0-038, 02/01/88 (HQ# 1006).
- 3) Guidance Document: Removal Cost Management Manual (Secondary Reference), OSWER #9360.0-028, 04/01/88 (HQ# 6001).
- 4) Guidance Document: Land Disposal Restrictions, 08/11/87 (HQ# 2204).
- 5) Guidance Document: Emergency Response Cleanup Services Contracts (ERCS), Users' Manual, 10/01/82 (RC# 9006).
- 6) Guidance Document: National Oil & Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Guidance, Part 300, 40 CFR CH. 1 (3-8-90 Edition), pp. 664-755, 03/08/90 (RC# 9038).
- 7) Guidance Document: Superfund Amendments & Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA), 10/17/86 (RC# 90100.
- 8) Guidance Document: Interim Guidance on Administrative Records for Selection of CERCLA Response Actions, OSWER 9833.3A, 03/01/89 (RC# 9013).
- 9) Guidance Document: Superfund LDR Guide #7: Determining When Land Disposal Restrictions (LDR's) are "Relevant and Appropriate" to CERCLA Response Actions, OSWER 93347.3-08FS, 12/01/89 (HQ# 2220).1.